THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Technological improvement in Access Network Protocol is a continuous process and therefore improved versions are also permitted for limited mobility. The cost of the network depends upon various factors.

(c) The total collection of Licence Fee as Revenue Share upto 31.01.2002 is Rs.1394.72 crores. 5% of the Adjusted Gross Revenue is to be charged as Universal Service Levy from all Telecom carriers or operators, excluding pure value added service providers such as Internet Service Providers, Voice Mail Service Providers, etc. and be credited to a Universal Service Fund. The Universal Service Obligation Support Policy will be implemented from 01.04.2002 and the allocations shall commence from the Financial Year 2002-2003.

I. T. Sales

770. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned Red tape slows down Public Sector Information Technology sales which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th February, 2002;

(b) whether Information Technology sales have also suffered more at the hands of cumbersome purchase procedures than lack of demand as alleged by the President of IDC India apart from plagued tendering system where cost-consideration override technical ones; and

(c) if so, what was IT spending/sales in 2000-01 and in what manner Government propose to increase take-off in this sector in 2002-03 for IT boom in the days ahead?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.